The exporters are extended financial assistance to set up modern packhouses in Andhra Pradesh for post harvest handling and export packaging of grapes and mangoes.

Action has been initiated to develop protocol for shipment of Banganapalli mangos through Controlled Atmosphere containers to United Kingdom and other distant markets.

An Integrated Training Programme has been launched for training growers and exporters for pre-harvest, harvesting and post harvest management of mangoes and grapes to improve the quality of export produce.

Assistance has been provided for twelve units in Chittoor district for upgrading their facilities for quality assurance and obtaining certificate for introduction of Hazard Analysis Critical Control Point (HACCP) system in processed Food in respect of processing of mango pulp.

Abolition of MMPO licences for milk production

2649. SHRI S. AGNIRAJ: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government is considering a proposal to do away with licences under MMPO Act for milk production;

(b) if so, by when it is likely to be implemented;

(c) whether delicencing will influence adulteration of milk and milk products; and

(d) if so, what protective measures are being considered by the Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL): (a) There is no proposal under the consideration of the Government to abolish Milk and Milk Product Order, 1992.

(b) to (d) In view of (a) above, questions do not arise.

Crop Insurance Scheme

2650. SHRI S. AGNIRAJ: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is coming with any specific scheme for Crop Insurance to the farmers;

(b) if so, when it is likely to be implemented;

(c) what are the main highlights of this scheme; and

(d) how the farmers will be benefited through this scheme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL): (a) to (d) The Comprehensive Crop Insurance Scheme (CCIS) covering loanee farmers growing wheat, paddy, millets (including maize), oilseeds, pulses crops and availing crop loans from rural financial institutions is already in operation since Kharif 1985 season onwards.

A proposal to introduce a Modified Comprehensive Crop Insurance Scheme (MCCIS) so as to make it more attractive to the farmers to enlarge the scope of its coverage in terms of farmers, crops etc. and at the same time to make it commercially viable is under consideration of the Government of India. The proposed scheme is likely to be introduced from Rabi 1999-2000 onward.